REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant thanks Examiner for the detailed Office Action dated March 20, 2006. In response to the issues raised, the Applicant offers the following submissions and amendments. Furthermore, we enclose a Terminal Disclaimer linking the term and ownership of any patent granted on the present application to that of co-pending USSN 10/773,199.

Amendments

Page 1 of the specification has been updated to include Cross Reference to Related Applications information.

The Abstract has been amended to remove 'claim-like' language such as 'comprising'.

Independent claims 1, 19 and 38 have been amended to highlight the features distinguishing them from the cited art. Claims 2, 4, 20, 22, 39 and 41 have been amended to align with the amended independent claims.

Claims 3, 21 and 40 have also been amended to address typographical error identified by the Examiner.

Accordingly the amendments do not add new matter.

Abstract

As discussed above, we believe that the amended Abstract provides a clear and concise description of the disclosure in compliance with 37 CFR 1.72.

Double Patenting

Claims 1, 4-19, 22-38 and 41-54 stand provisionally rejected as not patentably distinct from claims 1, 3-19, 21-38 and 40-54 of co-pending USSN 10/773,199. We trust the enclosed Terminal Disclaimer to '199 addresses this issue.

Claims – 35USC§102

Claims 1 and 19 stand rejected for lack of novelty in light of US 4,797,692 to Ims. In response, claims 1 and 19 have been amended to distinguish the present invention from the cited reference.

The amended independent claims clarify that the invention relates to thermal inkjet printheads that suspend the heater element in a plane parallel to the nozzle aperture. As explained throughout the specification, suspending the heater element improves the heat dissipation into the ink and therefore less heat transfers into the substrate. The bubble generated can enclose the entire heater element (apart from where it connects to the electrodes) so that less energy is used to generate a bubble having the required volume. Keeping the planar heater element in parallel with the nozzle aperture allows the pressure pulse to be more symmetrical about the central axis of the nozzle aperture for more efficient and accurate droplet ejection.

The Ims printhead does not generate a bubble that encircles the heater. One side of the heater is bonded to the substrate. It generates a bubble that isolates it from the ink but not the supporting substrate. Accordingly, Ims does not anticipate amended claims 1 and 19.

Claims – 35USC§103

Claims 2-18 and 20-54 stand rejected as obvious in light of US 4,797,692 to Ims in view of additional references cited against certain of the claims. As discussed above, Ims does not disclose the combination of features defined by independent claims 1 or 19. Likewise, Ims fails to anticipate amended independent claim 38. The additional references cited also fail to disclose all the elements of the independent claims and accordingly, fail to support a §103 rejection. It follows that all the dependent claims are likewise novel and non-obvious.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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